

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CANBER 06789 210718Z

10

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10

ERDA-07 OMB-01 /084 W

----- 113286

R 210641Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8973

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

UNCLAS CANBERRA 6789

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MNUC, OCLR, AS

SUBJECT: NPW VISITS TO AUSTRALIA

FOLLOWING STORY APPEARED IN SEPTEMBER 21 ISSUE OF HOBART
NEWSPAPER, THE MERCURY:

QUOTE. THE STATE GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY DECIDED TO OPEN
THE PORT OF HOBART TO UNITED STATES NUCLEAR WARSHIPS.

THE PREMIER, MR. NEILSON, SAID THE ONLY CONDITION WAS
THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO ANCHOR IN MIDSTREAM AND COULD NOT TIE
UP TO A WHARF.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT -- A RESPONSE TO A QUERY BY THE PRIME
MINISTER, MR. FRASER -- CAME AFTER TALKS YESTERDAY AND LAST
WEEK WITH EXPERTS FROM THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS OF DEFENCE AND
THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION.

THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION THAT HOBART IS THE
FAVORED PORT FOR RECREATION FOR THE CREW OF 5,500 ON THE
USS ENTERPRISE -- ONE OF THE BIGGEST WARSHIPS IN THE
WORLD -- AFTER IT PARTICIPATES IN THE ANZUS EXERCISE IN
THE CORAL SEA EARLY NEXT MONTH.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CANBER 06789 210718Z

IF IT DOES COME, IT WILL BE THE BIGGEST VESSEL TO

VISIT HOBART SINCE THE QUEENS ELIZABETH AND MARY DURING WORLD WAR TWO ACCORDING TO THE LIBERALS' TOURISM SPOKESMAN, MR. JOHN BEATTIE.

HE SAID YESTERDAY THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT ONLY AGREE TO ALLOW THE SHIP TO COME -- IT SHOULD ISSUE "AN ENTHUSIASTIC INVITATION."

MR. NEILSON'S ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY CAME AFTER LAST WEEK'S DECISION BY HOBART WATERFRONT UNIONISTS INVOLVED IN BERTHING SHIPS, THAT THEY WOULD WELCOME VISITS BY US AND BRITISH NUCLEAR SHIPS, SUBJECT TO STRINGENT SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.

MR. NEILSON REFERRED ONLY TO US NUCLEAR WAR-SHIPS IN ANNOUNCING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD "NOT OBJECT" TO THEM VISITING HOBART.

HE SAID IT ALSO APPLIED ONLY TO SURFACE VESSELS SUCH AS THE ENTERPRISE, AND NOT TO SUBMARINES OR OTHER SHIPS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO TIE UP TO WHARF FACILITIES.

THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICERS WITH WHOM TALKS HAD BEEN HELD HAD AGREED THAT A DIFFERENT SET OF SAFETY AND SECURITY GUIDELINES WOULD BE NEEDED FOR WHARF-SIDE BERTHING, THAN MIDSTREAM ANCHORAGE.

THERE HAD BEEN NO PROPOSAL PUT TO THE GOVERNMENT YET ABOUT ANY SPECIFIC SHIP VISITING HOBART, BUT IF A VISIT DID EVENTUATE, THERE WOULD BE CONTINUOUS MONITORING AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF RADIO-ACTIVITY.

BOTH THE PREMIER AND THE MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES, MR. MILLER, TOOK PART IN THE TALKS WITH COMMONWEALTH EXPERTS. SO DID THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES, MR. G. PALTRIDGE, AND MR. B.O. HEALY, OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

MR. NEILSON SAID THE STATE IS SATISFIED THAT THE INBUILT SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WERE PART OF THE DESIGN OF THE US SHIPS WERE SUCH AS TO MAKE VISITS COMPLETELY SAFE.

THE ESCAPE OF RADIO-ACTIVITY WAS "HIGHLY IMPROBABLE" AND EXPERIENCE CONFIRMED NO SUCH LEAKS HAD OCCURRED.

THE PROCEDURES USED BY THE US NAVY IN MANAGING ITS RADIO-ACTIVE WASTES HAD ALWAYS COMPLIED WITH UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CANBER 06789 210718Z

ASSURANCES GIVEN TO HOST NATIONS.

THE PURPOSE OF ANY VISIT TO HOBART WOULD BE ONLY FOR REST AND RECREATION OF CREWS. THERE WOULD BE NO MAINTENANCE.

IF THERE WAS A VISIT, THERE WOULD BE CONTINUOUS LIAISON BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH AND STATE DEPARTMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES, THE PREMIER SAID.

UNITED STATES EMBASSY MATERIAL DESCRIBES THE ENTERPRISE AS "A FLOATING CITY" WITH A WEIGHT OF 85,350 TONS, A LENGTH OF MORE THAN A THIRD OF A KILOMETRE (342 METRES), AND A KEEL TO MAST-TOP HEIGHT "EQUAL TO A 25 STOREY BUILDING."

IT HAS MORE THAN 1,800 TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS, ENOUGH AIR CONDITIONING PLANTS TO SERVE 400 HOMES, AND HAS A POWER GENERATING CAPACITY WHICH IS ENOUGH TO SUPPLY THE NEEDS OF A CITY OF MORE THAN 2,000,000 PEOPLE. END QUOTE. HARGROVE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, PORT CALLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CANBER06789
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760356-0220
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760938/aaaabgpo.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <04 JAN 2005 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NPW VISITS TO AUSTRALIA FOLLOWING STORY APPEARED IN SEPTEMBER 21 ISSUE OF HOBART NEWSPAPER, THE MERCURY
TAGS: MARR, MNUC, OCLR, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006